

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 14, and cancels claims 1, 6, 9, 11, and 15-27 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, and 12-14 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 8, 13, and 14; rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,847); and rejected claims 1, 6, 11, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Zenda (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,686). The Examiner also objected to claims 2,¹ 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in this case.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to claims 3, 8, 13, and 14 because they recite the limitation "capable of." However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended these claims to remove the words "capable of." Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 3, 8, 13, and 14.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando and the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Zenda. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled these claims, rendering the rejections moot.

¹ On page 7 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner did not list claim 2 as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 2 is not rejected in the Detailed Action. Furthermore, the Office Action Summary lists claim 2 as objected to. Accordingly, it appears that the Examiner intended to list claim 2 in this objection.

Regarding the objection to claims 2-5, 7, 10, and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 7, 10, and 12 in independent form. Claims 3-5 depend from rewritten claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 12, placing the present application in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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